

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a functional engineered fluorescent protein whose amino acid sequence is substantially identical to the amino acid sequence of *Aequorea* green fluorescent protein (SEQ ID NO:2) and which differs from SEQ ID NO:2 by at least the substitution T203X, wherein X is an aromatic amino acid selected from H, Y, W or F, said functional engineered fluorescent protein having a different fluorescent property than *Aequorea* green fluorescent protein.